

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 3, 5 and 31 to 38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Richards in view of Petersen. Claims 6 to 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Petersen in view of Hermach. Claims 4 and 9 to 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Petersen in view of Welborn.

Claim 38 has been amended. Reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 3, 5 and 31 to 37

Claims 1 to 3, 5 and 31 to 38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Richards in view of Petersen.

Richards discloses a web-up device in which the ribbon wrapped up on rollers 420, 421 is excess waste and discarded. See col. 4, lines 18 to 35.

Petersen discloses a web-fed printing press with a single folder for producing a single stream of signatures.

Claim 1 recites a printing device comprising:

“a roll-to roll printing press for forming a plurality of printed rolls; and

a separate assembly device, the assembly device having a plurality of roll unwinding devices separate from the printing press and unrolling the plurality of printed rolls, a first folder accepting at least one first web from the roll unwinding devices and forming first signatures, and a second folder accepting at least one second web from the roll unwinding devices and forming second signatures.”

Richards discloses a web-up apparatus that rolls up the web at 7.1 and 7.2 on rollers 420, 421. This wrap up is excess web and is not used any further. (See Richards at col 5, line 41 et seq.) Richards actually teaches away from the present invention of using a separate assembly device using the rolls on rollers 420, 421 or reassembling any of the excess web. Richards clearly wants to only print webs fed directly to the folder and thus does not even disclose a roll-to-roll printing press as claimed. There is no teaching or disclosure that the ribbons could be

used as rolls for unwinding and to form signatures, as there appears to be no way in Richards to track what is printed on the rolls. These rolls are discarded excess, and the print quality on them is probably very low, if any, as the rolls are from web-up.

It is therefore also respectfully submitted that it would not have been obvious to combine the teachings of Petersen with the standard press of Richards.

It also again is respectfully submitted that one of skill in the art would not have found it obvious to modify Petersen to provide “a second folder accepting at least one second web from the roll unwinding devices and forming second signatures” as claimed in claim 1. Petersen accepts all webs from its rolls prior to the cutting device and combines the web before making a first and sole set of signatures. Adding a second folder forming separate second signatures to Petersen adds complexity. Moreover, adding a second folder would not expedite **the printing process** at all. It is not understood why one of skill in the art would have added a second folder.

The present invention has at least two folders that form two separate streams of signatures that are then collected on a conveyor. This two-folder structure permits more flexibility with the rolls and combinations of signatures. Neither Petersen nor Richards recognizes this advantage and neither forms first and second signatures using two folders as claimed in claim 1.

Withdrawal of the rejection to claim 1 and its dependent claims 2 to 5 is respectfully requested.

Independent Claim 31, which was not addressed, has similar limitations to claim 1, and further recites “a conveying device for collecting the first signatures and the second signatures from the first folder and the second folder.” No such conveying device has been asserted in Richards or Petersen.

Neither Petersen nor Richards shows such a device, and withdrawal of the rejection to claim 31 and its dependent claims is thus also respectfully requested for this reason as well.

Should a new rejection be issued to claim 31, applicants respectfully request that the rejection not be made final so that a further response may be submitted.

Claims 4 and 6 to 11

Claims 4, 6 to 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Petersen in view of Hermach. Claims 4, 9 to 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Petersen in view of Hermach.

Petersen is discussed above.

Hermach shows a single folder creating one stream of signatures, and having several former boards 26.

Claim 6 recites an assembly device for assembling printed rolls of material comprising:
a plurality of roll unwinding devices;
a first folder accepting at least one first web from the roll unwinding devices and forming first signatures; and

a second folder accepting at least one second web from the roll unwinding devices and forming second signatures.

Claim 6 requires “a first folder . . . forming first signatures” and “a second folder . . . forming second signatures.”

Thus as defined by the present application, the each of the first and second folders must cut the web into signatures, which are defined length pieces cut from a web.

Both Petersen and Hermach first combine webs over at least one former board and bring the webs together before they are cut. Thus, neither Petersen nor Hermach discloses “a second folder . . . forming second signatures” as claimed in claim 6. Each discloses forming only first signatures from a single folder.

Claims 9 to 11 depend from claim 6 and Wellborn as well does not show a second folder.

In addition, with respect to claim 10, neither Petersen nor Wellborn discloses a conveyor for collecting signatures from two separate folders.

As stated above, it is not clear how adding a second folder would expedite signature formation as asserted by the office action.

Withdrawal of the rejections to claims 6 to 11 is also respectfully requested.

With respect to claim 4, claim 4 depends from claim 1 and it is not clear how the arguments with respect to claim 6 in the office action relate to claim 4. There is no discussion of how the claim 4 elements in conjunction with claim 1 are made obvious over Petersen in view of Hermach in view of Welborn. It has not been asserted that claim 1 is unpatentable over Petersen in view of Hermach or Welborn, and thus withdrawal of the rejection to claim 4 for this reason as well is respectfully requested.

Claim 38

Claim 38 has been amended to recite “a separate printed roll storage for storing the plurality of printed rolls separate from the printing press; and

a separate assembly device separate from the printing press and separate from the printed roll storage, the assembly device including:

a plurality of roll unwinding devices separate from the printing press.”

Other limitations have been removed.

Neither Petersen nor Richards show a separate assembly device separate from the roll storage, as in Petersen the rolls are never stored separately.

Support for the claim is found in the specification at page 12, line 9 et seq. for example.

CONCLUSION

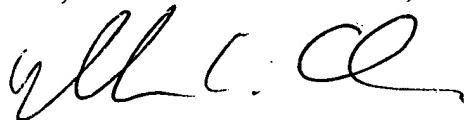
Reconsideration and allowance of the present application is respectfully requested.

If any additional fee is required at this time, the Assistant Commissioner is authorized to charge payment of the same to Deposit Account No. 50-0552.

Respectfully Submitted,

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